



THE BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED

otherwise

LAUNCESTON.

W.C.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1947.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Part-time Officers:-

Medical Officer of Health:-

Douglas H.A. Galbraith M.C.,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Infant Protection Visitor:-

Miss M.F. Owen S.C.N.

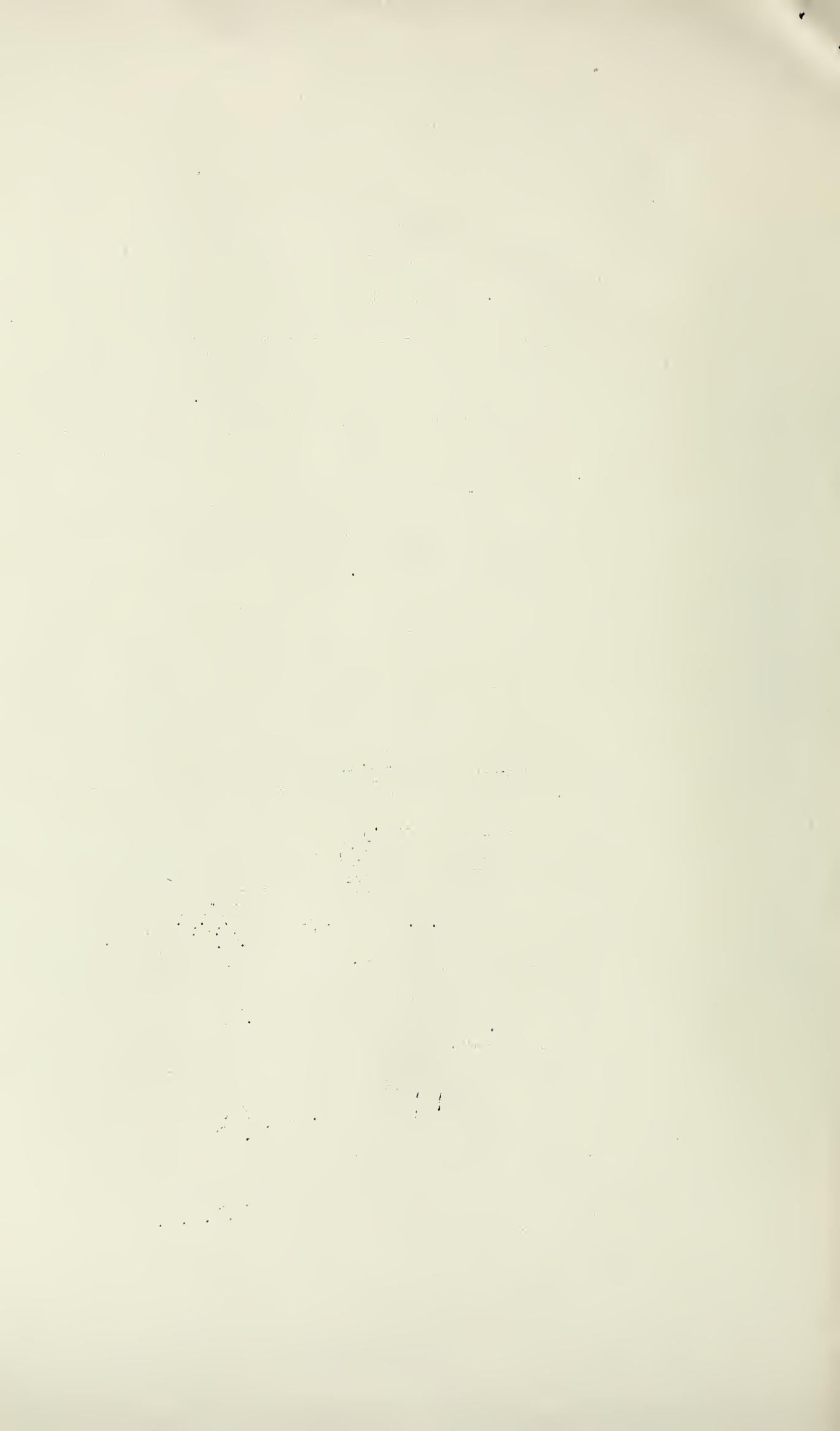
Full-time Officers:-

Borough Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector

H.K. Pickup Esq., M.R.S.I.

Assistant Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector:-

G.T. Rowlands Esq., M.R.S.I.



P. S.

The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors  
The Borough of DUNHEVED  
otherwise  
LAUNCESTON.

Your Worship, Madam & Gentlemen,

This being the last Open Meeting of the Council that I shall be attending in my capacity of Medical Officer of Health I deemed it a suitable moment to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1947.

In my last year's Report I mentioned the reduction in Birth Rate and hoped that owing to the New Housing Scheme we might see an increase in the Rate this year. I am glad to be able to say that a definite increase has been obtained. Not only has the actual number of births increased from 55 to 66 but the Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population has risen from 11.67 to 14.65.

I regret that I cannot report a similar decrease in the Death Rate but if you will refer to Table 3 in the latter part of SECTION "A" you will notice that, as last year, the greater number of deaths were due to Intracranial Vascular lesions (12) and Heart Disease (21).

As regards SECTION "B" I am glad to say that it appears most probable that the County Council will be taking possession of the buildings in the Castle Green, as offices for the District Medical Officer of Health and also for the Clinics, on 5th July.

This will be a great improvement. The Clinics will be able to operate in more happy conditions and the fact that the Medical Officer is to be a whole-time Officer is all to the good and is a step that I, personally, heartily welcome.

The Housing Scheme at Trecarrol appears to be progressing well and many young families have been settled there in most convenient houses and congenial surroundings.

Regarding Infectious Diseases. It is common knowledge that during 1947 there were two large and somewhat alarming epidemics in England & Wales. I am glad to say that only one, and that the less alarming of the two, hit Launceston. This was the Measles outbreak which occurred during the first six months of the year. I had notified to me 55 cases but there were undoubtedly many more that were not notified. The second epidemic that shook the country was Infantile Paralysis. I am happy to say that although there were several cases all around Launceston only one case was found in the Town and that was a comparatively mild one.

This is the last Annual Report that I, your Temporary Medical Officer, shall be making.

I would therefore wish to thank you, Mr Mayor, and your predecessors and all the Council for the help and encouragement and kindness that has been extended to me during my term of Office.

I am very sorry, from a purely personal point of view to have to relinquish this Office but that feeling is tempered by the opinion that I hold that the right thing is being done and that it is for the good of the Borough that you will henceforth be served by a full-time Officer.

Finally I ask your pardon for any indiscretions that I may have been guilty of in the past and beg leave to sign myself for the last time

Your Obedient Servt,

*Joseph H.A. Sellars*

Medical Officer of Health,  
Borough of DUNHEVED

otherwise LAUNCESTON.

21st June 1948.



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SECTION "A".

## STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

Table 1.

Area of the District in acres...	...	...	2188.
Population (estimated) ...	...	...	455.
Rateable Value ...	...	...	£4,012.
Product of 1d Rate..	...	...	£ 161- 16- 11.

Table 2.

### Live Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total...	59	27	66
Legitimate .....	38	25	63
Illegitimate .....	1	2	3

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population = 14.65

Note:- With the exception of 1944, when the rate was 16.9 this year's rate is the highest since 1959.

### Still Births:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total...	Nil.	1	1
Legitimate ...	Nil.	1	1
Illegitimate ..	Nil.	Nil	Nil.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births = 14.9  
( In 1946 the rate was 36.36

### Deaths.

<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
58.	32.	68.

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population = 15.29

Deaths from puerperal Causes = Nil.

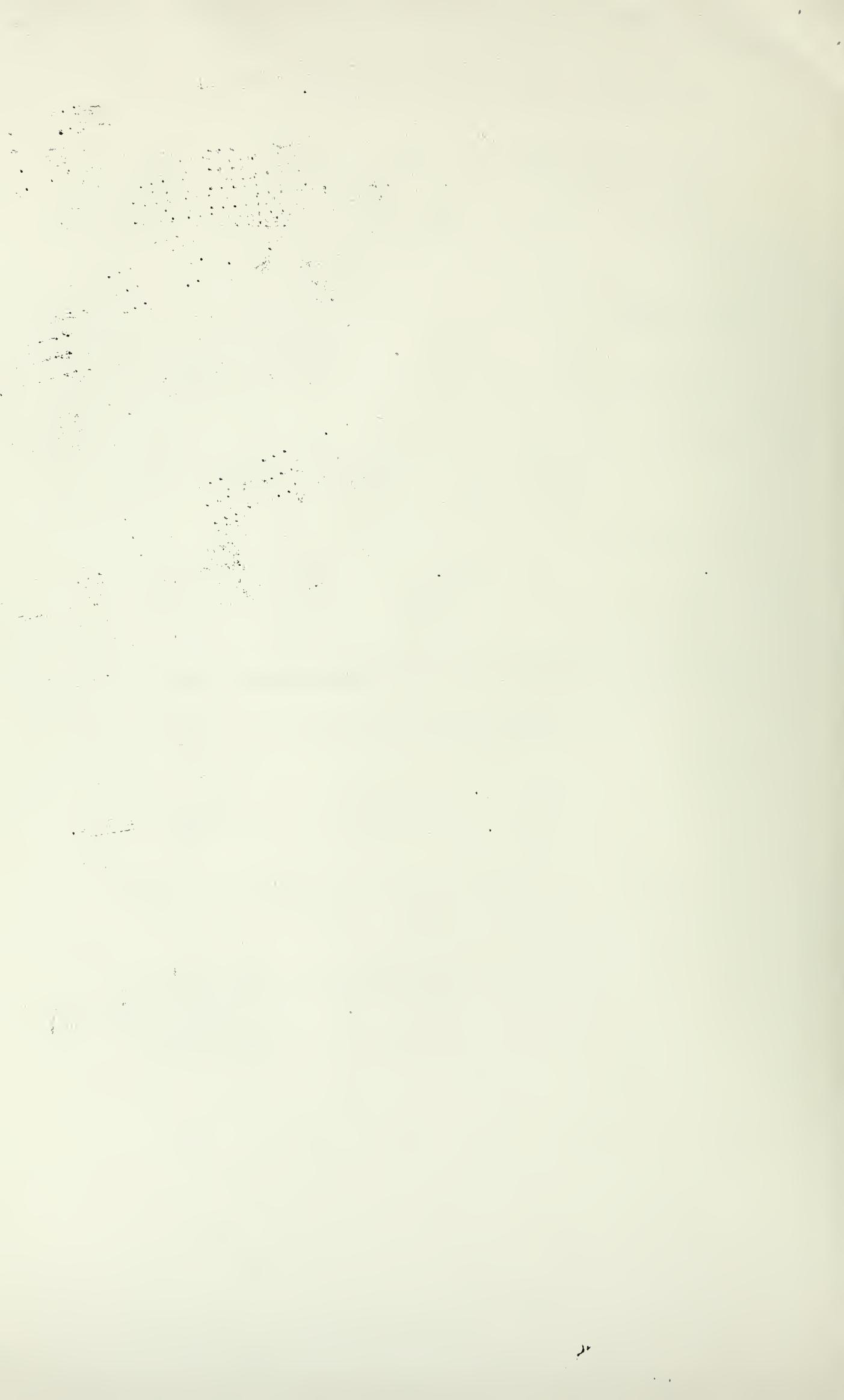
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age = 2.

Rate per 1,000 live births of all infants = 30.3

Rate per 1,000 live births of all infants = 39.3  
Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate

Rate of legitimate births per 1,000 legitimate  
births = 31.74

Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate  
births = Nil.



SECTION A. (contd.)

The Causes of Death at all ages were:-

Table 5.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System...	5	Nil	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	Nil	1	1
Influenza ...	1	Nil	1
Cancer. ...	4	Nil	4
Diabetes ...	Nil	1	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions...	4	8	12
Heart Diseases ...	11	10	21
Other diseases of circulatory system.	4	Nil	4
Bronchitis...	1	Nil	1
Pneumonia ...	Nil	2	2
Other respiratory Diseases ...	2	Nil	2
Digestive Diseases.	2	1	3
Nephritis ...	1	Nil	1
Infantile Diseases.	1	Nil	1
All other Causes...	2	4	6
Violent causes other than road accident ...	Nil	3	3
Totals.	38	37	68.

Comparative Rates. ( per 1,000 of estimated population)

Live Births.	Launceston.		England & Wales.	
	1946.	1947.	1946.	1947.
Still Births.	11.37	14.65	19.10	20.5
	0.44	0.22	0.55	0.50

Deaths.

All causes.	13.85	15.09	11.50	12.0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid.	-	-	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough.	-	-	?	0.02
Diphtheria.	-	-	0.01	0.01
Influenza.	0.44	0.22	0.15	0.09
Measles.	-	-	0.00	0.01

Deaths under 1 year ( per 1,000 live births)

All causes.	57.75	50.3	45	41
From Diarrhoea.	-	-	4.4	5.8

\* A dash (-) signifies there were no deaths.



## SECTION "B". GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES for the AREA.

### (1) Public Health Officers of the Area:-

A list of these Officers appears on the Front Page of this Report. There have been no alterations during the year.

(2) The Ambulance Service is still provided by the St John's Ambulance Brigade assisted by the Nurses of the British Red Cross Society. They continue to give most willing and efficient service. We hope that this will continue under the National Health Service in spite of the fact that all Voluntary Service will cease to exist.

### (3) The following Clinics are operating in the Area:-

- (a) The Orthopedic Clinic. This is run by the Devon Orthopedic Association (the successor of the Devon Association for Cripples Aid).
- (b) The Child Welfare Clinic. This is under the charge of the M.O.H.

These two Clinics work at the Y.M.C.A. A most unsuitable venue.. I gather that the Orthopedic Clinic will be moving to the Castle Green in the very near future but I have heard nothing officially about the Infant Welfare moving though I am of the opinion that if it does not move to the same place it might just as well be closed down.

- (c) The County Ante-Natal Clinic under the charge of the County Gynaecologist. This meets at the Guildhall. I cannot say whether it will move to the Castle Green.
- (d) The County Tuberculosis Officer holds a Clinic at the Launceston Hospital fortnightly. It is doing most excellent work. It is unlikely to want to move as it is most useful to have X-Ray facilities on the spot.
- (e) An Ear, Nose & Throat Clinic is held at the Launceston Hospital and Tonsillectomies are done there when needed. It is under the charge of Mr Howarth of Plymouth.

## SECTION "C".

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the AREA.

#### Water.

The supply remains as before and repeated analyses of the water still show that a highly satisfactory supply is delivered to the consumer.

#### Other Sanitary Matters.

Our two Sanitary Inspectors have been most assiduous in regard to these during the year under review.

## SECTION "D".

### Housing. The permanent Housing Scheme at Trecarrol Estate is proceeding apace and several houses are occupied.

In the Scarne Camp a number of the better huts have been fitted out as temporary houses.



SECTION "E".

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION of FOOD.

- (a) MILK. The usual Inspection of Dairies has been made by your Sanitary Inspectors.
- (b) MEAT. Your Sanitary Inspectors have made many visits, both routine and other, to the Abattoir.

SECTION "F". PREVALENCE and CONTROL of INFECTIOUS and OTHER DISEASES.

Table 4.

DISEASES.	Up	to	2	3	4	5	to	10	15	20	35	45	TOTAL	DEATHS
	to	and	over											
	+	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	over			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis													2	5
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis													1	4
Pneumonia													1	2
Erysipelas													1	Nil.
Diphtheria													4	Nil.
Measles	1	4	5	5	6	31	3		2	(			55	Nil.
Infantile Paralysis													1	Nil.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum													1	Nil.

The above Table is compiled from my Register of Notifications of Infectious Diseases. I regret to have to state that it is probably most inaccurate owing to the neglect of many parents to call in Doctors for many of the more slight cases.

